



GRADUATE SCHOOL | GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

Graduate Student Council Assembly Meeting — Minutes

Date: October 21, 2026 Time: 3:00–3:55 p.m.

Meeting format: Hybrid

Location: Graduate Student Lounge (Zoom participation available)

I. Executive Board Attendance

President: Farren Christ

Present: Yes | Arrival Time: 3:00 PM

Vice President: Peter Oskam

Present: Yes | Arrival Time: 2:55 PM

Treasurer: Logan Wilson

Present: No | Arrival Time: N/A

Chief of Staff: Mya Mensah

Present: Yes | Arrival Time: 2:58 PM

Coordinator of Outreach and Social Events: Emily Ritzes

Present: Yes | Arrival Time: 3:00 PM

Public Relations Coordinator: Luke Milinichik

Present: Yes | Arrival Time: 2:55 PM

II. Assembly Members in Attendance

Leisel Booker — Seidel School of Education / Conway Hall

Present: Yes | Arrival time: 2:50 pm

III. Other Attendees / Guests

Jessica Scott — Guest

IV. Zoom Attendees (Executive, Assembly & Guests)

Nahid Mozhahi — Attended via Zoom

V. Updates from President

1A. University updates: Strategic enrollment and a new higher education master's program were discussed. A civic engagement ad hoc committee was also noted as part of current institutional priorities.

2A. Graduate assistant stipends: A possible stipend increase is under executive-level consideration. Long-term budget sustainability remains a concern; no increase was confirmed.

3A. Assembly representation: Proposed bylaw amendments would replace the two at-large seats with two international-student seats and two online/satellite-student seats. Language should reflect students at satellite locations as well as fully online students. Amendment wording and approval procedures require further work.

4A. Student engagement: Discussed game nights, bowling, virtual activities, and possible collaboration with nearby institutions. Event planning need not wait for the next monthly assembly meeting.

5A. University president and athletics engagement: Potential game-night and athletics-related activities were raised. Scheduling should be coordinated with the appropriate athletics contacts.

VI. Updates from Vice President

1B. Meeting schedule: Regular assembly meetings were discussed for the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.; additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

2B. Open participation: Monthly assembly meetings will be open to graduate students. Separate executive meetings may be arranged when necessary.

3B. Meeting refreshments: Lower-cost alternatives to previous Chick-fil-A orders, including pat's pizza, were discussed to manage the GSC budget.

4B. Meeting preparation: Executive officers should bring position updates, and assembly representatives are encouraged to share program-level feedback. Food orders will require coordination of attendance estimates, dietary needs, purchasing details, and approval.

VII. Topics Discussed / Ideas Proposed / Important Dates

1. Virtual engagement: Proposed online-friendly events such as a Halloween costume contest with photo submissions and voting, virtual trivia, and bingo. Social media promotion and modest prizes or gift cards were discussed; no final schedule was confirmed.

2. In-person activities: Game nights, bowling, and potential joint events with nearby student organizations were considered.
3. GSC apparel: Discussed T-shirts and quarter-zip apparel for executive and assembly members, including possible colors and designs.
4. Promotional materials: Considered notepads, pens, stickers, keychains, magnets, and small giveaway items for events. Personalized items may have higher production costs. Notepads for graduate assistants were discussed.
5. Meeting participation: Members discussed encouraging graduate students outside the executive board and assembly to attend events and share ideas.

VIII. Concerns from the Assembly (Including Personnel / Program Concerns)

1. Accessibility for online and satellite students: A student noted that many advertised events are in person and requested activities that remote students can join.
2. Student feedback channel: Discussed creating a GSC concern-and-suggestion form with optional contact information, allowing students to submit feedback without identifying themselves. The form should explain that confidential or urgent matters may require a different reporting channel.
3. Outreach: A QR code and distribution through the GSC email were suggested to make the feedback form easy to access.

IX. Meeting Minutes / Decisions / Motions / Votes

1. Meeting held October 21, 2026, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and concluding at approximately 3:55 p.m.
2. Graduate assistant stipend payments were discussed as normally occurring at the end of the fall and spring semesters, with payment typically included in a GA paycheck. Processing of the current stipend was expected shortly.
3. Proposed bylaw changes, virtual events, merchandise, and food options remain under discussion. No formal motion, vote count, or final approval was documented in the notes.

X. Action Items / Follow-Up

1. Luke Milinichik — Develop interactive event ideas to engage graduate students beyond the executive board and assembly; coordinate food ordering and obtain the purchasing/account details and approval process from Jessica Scott. Due date: Not specified.
2. Emily Ritzes — Finalize plans and ordering details for GSC merchandise, including T-shirts and quarter-zips; support event publicity and attendance coordination. Due date: Not specified.

3. Mya Mensah — Draft an optional-name student feedback/concern form and submit it to Jessica Scott for review before distribution. Due date: Not specified.
4. Executive team — Develop proposed bylaw amendment language for international and online/satellite student representation. Owner and due date: To be determined.
5. Event organizers — Explore virtual events, in-person activities, and budget-conscious refreshments. Owner and due date: To be determined.

XI. Adjournment & Minutes Record

Adjourned: Approximately 3:55 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Mya Mensah

Date distributed: October 21st, 2026